

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2003

Present: Corey, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: Jessen (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Jan Scott; Helen Granger, The Independent; Gary Granger; Keith Johnson; Joshua Jones; Scott Johnson, Fire Chief; Bill Lulham; Shirley Sanderson; Bob Ockerman; Dick Sanderson; Bernie Yott; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Don & Casey Inman; Ian Weber; Hank Kuchar; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated February 18, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the agenda as presented by moving Item No. 1) Consider Authorizing McCurdy Park Pavilion Eagle Scout Project before the City Manager's report.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Mehigh moved, Wagner seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Casey Inman, 301 S. Brady Street, asked when the claim she turned in for sewer backup expenses would be paid. Mayor Corey asked Ms. Inman if she had contacted city hall. Ms. Inman stated she spoke to Mr. Sawyer about this and he was very rude. Mr. Sawyer advised this is an example where the city's goodwill gesture has gone unappreciated. The city spent \$43,000 to replace the sewer main on short notice in the dead of winter for six residents who are benefiting from this sewer line. He further advised the city replaced sewer leads to every house so the city does not have to tear up

the street at a later date plus the city installed clean outs for the property owners. He also advised the city could have assessed thousands of dollars of the project to the property owners, but instead, the city did a goodwill gesture. Now, the city has gotten demands that the city immediately pay for carpet remnants that were destroyed even though some of these people are \$500 or \$600 delinquent in their water and sewer billing. Ms. Inman stated she does appreciate what the city has done and is glad the problem is fixed, but the bill that the claim is for was sent to her house. Mayor Corey stated this issue would be addressed later.

Hank Kuchar advised council Mrs. Inman was his daughter and she has had sewer problems since Thanksgiving. He stated the basement carpet was not old because it was put down last year. He further stated all the Inmans want is a little of their expenses back because the basement has flooded five times.

Bob Ockerman stated he attended the February 3 meeting and there were three things that happened at that meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Sanderson to omit two lines from the minutes, which was voted on and passed with a five to one vote, and somebody should know that cannot be done. Mr. Ockerman further stated as he was telling council they were going down a slippery slope, he was gavelled down, but we still have Freedom of Speech in this country. Mr. Ockerman also stated later on at that meeting, he had an ambulance question and he asked Councilperson Mehig, who is the president of the ambulance board, Councilperson Sanderson, who is the ambulance board treasurer, and Councilperson Johnson, who has worked for the ambulance service for 20 years, but none of them would give him an answer. Mr. Ockerman advised he was told to go to an ambulance board meeting. The city council appoints the representatives to the ambulance board, and the people have the right to ask questions. Mr. Ockerman advised the press was not present at that meeting and that was sad. He further advised the ambulance service report is for anyone who is interested.

Keith Johnson stated Owosso's sidewalk shoveling ordinance states a person does not need to shovel if the snow is two inches or less. He further stated this city is in violation of its own ordinance, which is not being followed well at all and this needs to be looked at. He also stated the county uses a four-wheel drive pickup to clean their sidewalks and there is a big crack in one of their brand new sidewalks. Mr. Johnson advised he knows of three people who have fallen because of unlevel sidewalks. He further advised the sidewalk program needs to be looked at. Mr. Sawyer encouraged the public to contact city hall when a person comes across an unlevel sidewalk.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he called the school and told them their sidewalks needed to be cleaned. He was told the sidewalks would be cleaned within the hour, but it took them until 5:00 p.m. He further stated he has volunteered to shovel sidewalks, and if someone cannot shovel their sidewalk, he would do it. He encouraged people to let other people know about the new ordinance.

Councilperson Runyan advised he wanted to respond to what Mr. Ockerman stated because only half of what was being told happened that night.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING MCCURDY PARK PAVILION EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Joshua Jones explained to council that he plans to build a 24-foot by 24-foot pavilion in McCurdy Park between the existing pavilion and the new bathrooms. He further explained the roof would be identical to the park bathrooms. He hopes to get most of the pavilion materials donated. Mr. Sawyer stated he told Mr. Jones that the city would work very closely with him. The pavilion has to be made handicap accessible. Councilperson Johnson asked Mr. Jones how long he has to build the pavilion. Mr. Jones advised he would start as soon as the weather permits; and he plans to have the pavilion finished by the time school is out. Councilperson Mehigh thanked Mr. Jones for coming forward and he wished him good luck. Runyan moved, Johnson seconded to authorize the McCurdy Park Pavilion Eagle Scout Project with Joshua Jones and authorize the Mayor to sign the proposal.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to move the city manager's report to Item No. 9A.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER POLICY FOR FIRST OFFENSE WAIVER OF SIDEWALK CLEARING

PENALTY: Mayor Corey advised it was not the intent of the city to punish people to get people to clear their sidewalks. Mr. Sawyer read his report information. He advised people have been very reasonable in their reactions to the billing, and it may be beneficial to implement a waiver policy for first time offenders. He further advised the people billed do realize they violated the ordinance. He also advised he believes the waiver policy would help the city enforce the ordinance. Mehigh moved, Wagner seconded to authorize the City Manager to adopt an administrative policy to waive the sidewalk clearing fine for first time offenders upon payment of costs and completion of any policy requirements. Councilperson Runyan asked what the cost would be. Mr. Sawyer advised the minimum cost would be \$25.00 since there would be a service rendered. Councilperson Sanderson asked if a sign up sheet could be placed at city hall for volunteers that want to shovel sidewalks.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER EXTENDING ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE FIRE

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD: Councilperson Mehigh suggested scheduling a meeting between the Caledonia Charter Township board and the city council to work out an agreement. Councilperson Mehigh further suggested having Tom Wazny and Mr.

Sawyer chair the joint meeting and go over the agreement line by line. Mr. Sawyer advised the Committee of the Whole did request a joint meeting with the Caledonia Charter Township board to go over the fire agreement. Councilperson Johnson asked what the time frame would be. Councilperson Mehig stated there is a communication problem, but the city has to go forward to resolve the situation regardless if it takes a month or a year because the other option is no fire department. Councilperson Johnson stated she knows this, but there should be a time frame. Mayor Corey suggested calling Caledonia Charter Township tomorrow to schedule a meeting for next Monday. Mr. Sawyer advised he met with Mr. Wazny on February 4, and Mr. Wazny voiced no objections to a joint meeting concept. Wagner moved, Sanderson seconded to extend the authority of the Fire Administrative Board, as established under the expired Fire Agreement, to continue administration of the Fire Department as set forth in the expired Fire Agreement, until a new agreement is executed or said extension of authority is terminated by subsequent council action.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SHIAWASSEE SHRINE CLUB PAPER SALES ON JUNE 13-

14, 2003: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to authorize the Shiawassee Shrine Club Paper Sale on June 13 – June 14, 2003.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehig, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REZONING 444 E. MCNEIL FROM R-O TO C-2 AS PER THE

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION: Runyan moved, Mehig seconded to approve the rezoning request for 444 E. McNeil Street from R-O to C-2 as recommended by the Planning Commission and as is consistent with the Corunna Master Land Use Plan.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER WAIVING REZONING FEE FOR R-O TO C-2 APPLICATIONS ON E. MCNEIL
MADE BY PROPERTY OWNERS PREVIOUSLY ZONED C-2 FOR A 90 DAY
WINDOW BEGINNING MARCH 10, 2003 AND TERMINATING MAY 16, 2003:

Councilperson Mehig stated the mayor has suggested changing the window from 90 days to six months. Mayor Corey advised he wanted to extend the window to 120 days in case there are people who are vacationing and might not be back for a couple of months. Mr. Sawyer advised the motion could be changed from 90 to 120 days with a March 10, 2003 beginning date. Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to open a 120 day window, beginning March 10, 2003, wherein the rezoning application fee is to be waived

for properties on E. McNeil being rezoned from R-O back to C-2 (if was their pre-1994 status), in cases where no property ownership transfer has transpired.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL WORK FOR OLMSTED PUBLIC

LIBRARY COMPLEX FIRE ANNEX: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agreement with Herrington & Dingsen for Beam Design and Fire Code Requirements in the amount of \$1,480 to be paid for from the Municipal Building Fund.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 17, 2003 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER CHANGES

TO PLANNING COMMISSION ORDINANCE-MEMBERSHIP: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to set a public hearing for March 17, 2003 at 7:15 p.m. to consider amendments to the Planning Commission Ordinance pertaining to membership thereof and changing to a nine member commission of which one member would be the mayor, city council member, city official and six at-large members.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehig, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 17, 2003 AT 7:30 P.M. TO CONSIDER CHANGES

TO FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMISSION ORDINANCE-MEMBERSHIP:

Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to set a public hearing for March 17, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. to consider amendments to the Forest Management Commission Ordinance pertaining to Membership thereof, eliminating the required planning commission member to be replaced with a member-at-large.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed and explained his manager's report to council and to those in the audience. He advised the city advertised its board and commission vacancies, but did not receive any calls. He discussed Bill Constine's latest article regarding Owosso and Corunna working together and the many errors that were in that article.

GARBAGE PICKUP: Councilperson Sanderson stated the garbage trucks are misusing the city roads. He suggested coming up with some kind of temporary plan to keep the large garbage trucks out of the alleys because when the alleys begin to thaw, the trucks are going to break up the edge of the roads. He further stated he does not understand why someone cannot go to these garbage companies and tell them what the problems are and what the city wants to try. The city could approve curb service pickup for a temporary period of time. Councilperson Sanderson suggested putting a program together for the spring. Mayor Corey stated the city should include all streets. An ordinance could be done to keep the garbage trucks on the main streets and limit the weight of trucks to one-ton pickups. Bill Lulham stated the city needs to act soon. Councilperson Wagner asked if the city could do anything about weight restrictions and if there was anyway to enforce the weight restrictions. Mr. Sawyer advised when it comes to major street funding, the city cannot put any weight restrictions on. When it comes to local streets, the city can post streets as no truck traffic, but this would not apply to what is considered as local delivery such as moving trucks, cement trucks, or garbage trucks. He further advised he would have to check to see if the city could fine-tune the ordinance to prohibit certain local delivery issues. Councilperson Wagner stated the city could weigh the garbage trucks, and if they are overweight, then the trucks should be ticketed. Councilperson Mehigh stated a two-inch asphalt cap will not take the weight of a large garbage truck. Mayor Corey stated the city council could restrict garbage pickup with a specific weight limit and notify the garbage companies of the weight limit. Councilperson Johnson asked Mr. Sawyer if Kim Williams was trained to use the weight scales and if he went to school to learn how to use the scales. Mr. Sawyer advised he was not sure. Councilperson Johnson stated she believed he went to school a few years ago to learn how to use the scales. Mayor Corey stated when he was on the city council, the city paid \$5,000 for scales that have never been used. Councilperson Johnson advised exactly, so the city should use them. Mayor Corey stated he does not know if the city still has them. Mr. Sawyer suggested discussing this topic at the March 24 Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Corey suggested sending out letters to the garbage companies informing them of what the city is planning. The garbage companies might know of something that would solve this problem.

SOUTH SHIAWASSEE STREET REPAIRS: Councilperson Sanderson advised he went to the county road commission meeting last week to ask if they could do anything about South Shiawassee Street from the railroad tracks to the city limits, and he was told the road commission could chip seal the street then charge the city accordingly. He further advised he does not feel chip seal would solve the problem. He also advised he asked the road commission about fixing the railroad tracks and was told the road commission has tried to get the railroad to fix the railroad tracks, but they have had no luck. Mayor Corey stated Clark Harder tried to get the rubber railroad tracks from west M-21 but everything fell through. Councilperson Sanderson stated the street needs to be torn out and redone from the railroad tracks to the city limits, but he knows nobody has the money to do that so if the street has to be chip sealed then that is what the city should do. Councilperson Runyan stated the only way to solve the problem on the south side of the railroad tracks is to make the street level with the railroad tracks by tapering the street. Right now, the

street drops about eight inches after you cross the railroad tracks. Mr. Sawyer asked when the county plans to chip seal. Councilperson Sanderson advised he did not know.

Mr. Sawyer suggested picking dates that will work for the council members for the joint meeting with Caledonia Charter Township. March 10, March 12, March 18 and March 31 were suggested dates for the joint meeting.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Jan Scott stated she did not realize the planning commission needed to put someone on the Forest Management Commission. Mayor Corey stated the public hearing could be canceled if someone from the planning commission comes forward before the next meeting.

Judy Horton advised only three garbage companies use big trucks for garbage pickup. Mayor Corey asked if there was anything to prevent a private residence from having a dumpster on an on-going basis. Mr. Sawyer advised not that he was aware of, but he thought there were restrictions on where the dumpster could be placed.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Runyan advised the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency has changed their meeting date from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday of each month.

Councilperson Johnson advised Mr. Ockerman was invited to attend the ambulance meeting, but he did not show up. She further advised Home Depot donated \$1,000 to the Friends of the Library.

Councilperson Wagner thanked Joe for doing a good job.

Councilperson Mehig advised he has heard some problems about not having enough places to meet. He asked Councilperson Johnson if the ambulance boardroom was available. Councilperson Johnson advised yes, but people would have to park at the doctor's office across the street. Councilperson Mehig stated the parks and recreation commission members have stated the community center basement is cold. He further stated most of the ambulance service problems with the Internal Revenue Service are resolved, but the ambulance service still has one large outstanding debt, which is with Lansing-Mason. The ambulance board is looking at the feasibility of getting an \$80,000 loan to pay off Lansing-Mason. He advised the ambulance board believes the loan can be paid off in 18 months. Councilperson Johnson asked how much is owed to Lansing-Mason. Councilperson Mehig advised approximately \$108,000, but Lansing-Mason has agreed to accept \$80,000.

Mayor Corey thanked Mr. Sawyer for the e-mails and phone calls he received while he was out of town.

ADJOURN: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:19 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK